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EXAMINER

HOSSAIN, FARZANA E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/965,148

Applicant(s)

OKAYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Farzana E. Hossain

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2006.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 49-54 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 49-54 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) 49 is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This office action is responsive to communications filed 10-02-2006. Claims 1-6, 49-54 are pending. Claims 7-48, 55-58 are cancelled. Claims 1, 54 are amended. Claims 2-6, 49-53 are previously presented.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10/02/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Pietraszak does not disclose an exclusive memory that is restricted such that writing, reading, alteration, or deletion of data is prohibited based on an instruction from a user of the data (Pages 7-8). The applicant argues that a memory area is restricted memory area such that higher priority loader takes precedence but that Pietraszak cannot guarantee the use of same memory area (Page 8).

First of all, the applicant states that Claim 1 has been amended to add the subject matter of Claim 48. However, the current limitations are not the same as the limitations of Claim 48 filed 4-18-06.

Claim 48, filed 4-18-06, recites:

"said storage unit has a plurality of exclusive memory areas logically separated from one another in association with a plurality of providers or senders wherein at least one of the plurality of memory areas is restricted memory area subjected to restriction of at least one of writing, reading, alteration, and deletion of the data based on an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus."

Claim 1, filed 10-02-06, recites:

"said storage unit has a plurality of exclusive memory areas logically or physically separated from one another wherein said plurality of memory areas include said exclusive memory area, and wherein said exclusive memory area is a restricted memory area subjected to restriction of at least one of writing, reading, alteration, and deletion of the data based on an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus, a provider other than said provider, or a sender other than said sender."

Pietraszak discloses that the storage unit has a plurality of memory areas logically or physically separated from another (Figure 3, 60-63). Pietraszak discloses an electronic program guide loader or loaders for different service providers (Figure 2, 70, Figure 3, 70, 76) to load the data or EPG information, which includes a decoder for decoding the data and the data is collected (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). It is inherent for each loader to include a buffer to store the data as the loader is extracting data and the data is taken from the loader to the main storage unit. Pietraszak discloses a processing unit (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63) for securing in the storage unit an exclusive memory area which is exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data in the storage unit or an EPG loader specific to a service provider or sender of data who has exclusively uses the loader which

necessarily includes a buffer (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63, Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042) and also a service provider has the power to exclude other senders of data from using the memory (Figure 3, 60-63, Figure 2, 60-63) by using a priority (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). Therefore, Pietraszak discloses the provider that sends the data can write, read, alter and/or delete data in the exclusive memory area.

3. The applicant argues that no exclusive memory exist in Zigmond (Page 8). The applicant also argues that Zigmond suggests advertisers have sole control over data but that the viewer may predefine ad selection rules (Page 8).

Zigmond clearly discloses that the ad selection rules can be predefined by advertisers, content provider, a third party operator or the viewer (Column 11, lines 50-53). Zigmond also discloses that the rules can be made by an agreement by the parties (Column 11, lines 54-55) or the rules can be determined unilaterally and one particular entity can have sole control (Column 11, lines 56-62). Zigmond discloses that it can one or all or a combination. The rejection is maintained.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claim 49 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 49 depends on cancelled claim 48. Claim 49 is assumed to depend on claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 49, 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pietraszak et al (US 2005/0177849 and hereafter referred to as "Pietraszak").

Regarding Claim 1, Pietraszak discloses a data receiving apparatus for receiving data transmitted via a broadcast wave or an electric communication line (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 60, 61, 62, 63, Page 4, paragraph 0039), comprising a receiving unit for receiving the data (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 60). Pietraszak discloses an electronic program guide loader or loaders for different service providers (Figure 2, 70, Figure 3, 70, 76) to load the data or EPG information, which includes a decoder for decoding the data and the data is collected (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). It is inherent for each loader to include a buffer to store the data as the loader is extracting data and the data is taken from the loader to the main storage unit. Pietraszak discloses a storage unit for storing received data (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 42, 60, 61, 62, 63); and a processing unit (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63) for securing in the storage unit an exclusive memory area which is exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data

in the storage unit or an EPG loader specific to a service provider or sender of data who has exclusively uses the loader which necessarily includes a buffer (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63, Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042) and also a service provider has the power to exclude other senders of data from using the memory or storage unit (Figure 3, 42, Figure 2, 42) by using a priority (Page 5, paragraphs 0044, 0052) as the exclusive means to exclude or the power to exclude. Pietraszak discloses the storage unit (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63, Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042) has a plurality of exclusive memory areas logically separated from one another in association with a plurality of providers or senders (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 60-63), wherein at least one of the plurality of memory areas is restricted memory area subjected to restriction of at least one of writing, reading, alteration, and deletion of the data is prohibited if based on an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus or a provider other than the provider or a sender other than the sender or there are storage or record locations that data cannot be written, altered, or deleted as only the provider of data can access the memory area of the particular loader to change the data or prohibits other providers from accessing the data (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042).

Regarding Claim 54, Pietraszak discloses a data receiving method for receiving data transmitted via a broadcast wave or an electric communication line (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 60, 61, 62, 63, Page 4, paragraph 0039). Pietraszak discloses an electronic program guide loader or loaders for different service providers (Figure 2, 70, Figure 3, 70, 76) to load the data or EPG information, which includes a decoder for decoding the

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data and the data is collected (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). It is inherent for each loader to include a buffer to store the data as the loader is extracting data and the data is taken from the loader to the main storage unit. Pietraszak discloses a storage unit for storing received data (Figure 2, 60, 42, Figure 3, 42, 60, 61, 62, 63) in different memory areas among a plurality of memory areas include the exclusive memory area, wherein the received data is stored in the exclusive memory area when the received data is what is desired by the provider or sender to be store in the exclusive memory area (Figure 3, 60-63, Page 4, paragraphs 0041-0042). Pietraszak discloses a processing unit (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63) for securing in the storage unit an exclusive memory area which is exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data in the storage unit or an EPG loader specific to a service provider or sender of data who has exclusively uses the loader which necessarily includes a buffer (Figure 2, 40, 41, 60, Figure 3, 40, 41, 60, 61, 62, 63, Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042) and also a service provider has the power to exclude other senders of data from using the memory or storage unit (Figure 3, 60, Figure 2, 60) as the exclusive means to exclude or the power to exclude or wherein at least one of the plurality of memory areas is restricted memory area subjected to restriction of at least one of writing, reading, alteration, and deletion of the data is prohibited if based on an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus or a provider other than the provider or a sender other than the sender or there are storage or record locations that data cannot be written, altered, or deleted as only the provider of data can access the memory area of the particular loader



to change the data or prohibits other providers from accessing the data (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042).

Regarding Claim 2, Pietraszak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Pietraszak discloses that the storage unit has a user memory area for storing received data in accordance with an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus (Pages 5-6, paragraphs 0044, 0052, 0056).

Regarding Claim 5, Pietraszak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Pietraszak discloses that a service provider can have the power to exclude other providers from storing or updating or loading data in the exclusive memory (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). It is necessarily included that an identifier is added to the received data, as the processing unit determines if the received data is data to be stored in the exclusive memory area (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). Also, there is a priority based on providers which necessarily includes an identifier as only high priority providers can store items in the storage unit (Page 5, paragraph 0044).

Regarding Claim 6, Pietraszak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Pietraszak discloses an electronic program guide loader or loaders (Figure 3, 60-63) for different service providers (Figure 2, 70, Figure 3, 70, 76) to load the data or EPG information, which includes a decoder for decoding the data and the data is collected (Page 4, paragraphs 0041, 0042). It is inherent for each loader to include a buffer to store the data as the loader is extracting data and the data is taken from the loader to the main storage unit. Pietraszak discloses that the storage unit (Figure 3, 42, 61-63) has a

plurality of exclusive memory areas logically separated from one another in association with a plurality of providers or senders (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 60-63). See rejection 1.

Regarding Claim 49, Pietraszak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1.

Pietraszak discloses that the other memory areas (Figure 2, 42, Page 5, paragraph 0044, Figure 3, 61-63, 42) other than restricted memory area (Figure 2, 42, Page 5, paragraph 0044, Figure 3, 42) stores main data about a broadcast program can be provided by TV station or satellite provider (Figure 3, 74, 76); and the restricted memory area stores sub data about a commodity sales such as a pay per view movie (Pages 5-6, paragraph 0046, 0052, Figure 3, 75). Note: the EPG data can be restricted to any provider.

7. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 49-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zigmond et al (US 6,698,020 and hereafter referred to as "Zigmond").

Regarding Claims 1, Zigmond discloses a data receiving apparatus (Figure 4, 68, Figure 5, 80) for receiving data transmitted via a broadcast wave or an electric communication line (Figure 4, 52, 62, 64, 66, 60, Figure 5, 80), comprising a receiving unit for receiving the data (Figure 2, 60, Figure 3, 60), a storage unit for storing received data (Figure 5, 82, 81). Zigmond discloses the system is a processing device to perform certain functions, which reads on a processing unit performing functions (Column 6, lines 48-67). Zigmond discloses that the ad insertion device or data receiving apparatus with a processing unit performs the process of securing an exclusive memory area which is exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data

in the storage unit or source of data or ad selection rules can be advertisers and the advertisers will have sole control over the data (Column 11, lines 50-65, Figure 4, 62) as the exclusive means to exclude or the power to exclude. Zigmond discloses the storage unit (Figure 5, 82, 81) which stores the data and has a plurality of memory areas logically or physically separated from one another (Figure 5, 82, 81), wherein at least one of the plurality of memory areas is a restricted memory area subjected to restriction of at least one of writing, reading, alteration and deletion of the data based on an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus (Column 11, lines 50-62), a provider other than said provider (Column 11, lines 50-62), or a sender other than the sender (Column 11, lines 50-62).

Regarding Claim 2, Zigmond discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Zigmond discloses that the storage unit has a user memory area for storing received data in accordance with an instruction from a user of the data receiving apparatus (Column 10, lines 35-63, Column 11, lines 50-64).

Regarding Claim 5, Zigmond discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Zigmond discloses that an identifier added to received data, the processing unit determines if the received data is data to be stored in the exclusive memory area or based on storage limitations received data or selected advertisements is stored or not stored based on the advertisement selection rules or an identifier identifying the particular advertisements (Column 11, lines 31-62, Column 15, lines 18-24).

Regarding Claim 6, Zigmond discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Zigmond discloses that the storage unit (Figure 5, 81, 83) has a plurality of exclusive memory

areas logically separated from one another in association with a plurality of providers or senders (Figure 4, 62, 66). The electronic program database stores main data about a broadcast program (Column 11, lines 1-12), it is well known in the art for delivering programming information (Column 11, lines 5-10). It is necessarily inherent that programming information is delivered from a program information source or a programming source. Zigmond discloses a further embodiment of a programming database being associated with a programming source (Figure 8, 66, 140) providing information to the receiving apparatus.

Regarding Claim 49, Zigmond discloses the limitations of Claim 1. Zigmond discloses that wherein those memory areas which are other than the restricted memory area store main data about a broadcast program (Figure 5, 81); and the restricted memory area stores sub data about a commercial or service providing offer (Figure 5, 86, 83, 82).

Regarding Claim 50, Zigmond discloses the limitations of Claim 49. Zigmond discloses the processing unit for changing sub data included in the main data to the sub data stored in the restricted memory area and displaying the main data containing the changed sub data on a display unit or the ad selection criteria uses the parameters and rules to change the sub data or advertisement (Figure 5, 83, Column 11, lines 13-49).

Regarding Claim 51, Zigmond discloses the limitations of Claim 50. Zigmond discloses that the processing unit changes sub data included in the main data to the sub data stored in the restricted memory area when making a decision that an expiration

period of the sub data included in the main data has passed or with any time sensitive advertisements another advertisement can replace it (Column 14, lines 4-12).

Regarding Claim 52, Zigmond discloses the limitations of Claim 50. Zigmond discloses that the processing unit changes sub data included in the main data to the sub data stored in the restricted memory area in accordance with a priority order predetermined for the sub data stored in the restricted memory area or a certain advertisement is displayed in reference to a specific program being displayed (Column 12, lines 66-67, Column 13, lines 1-3), an advertiser makes it a priority that his advertisement is shown regardless of programming (Column 12, lines 44-59), the profile of a particular viewer creating the priority of the advertisements (Column 2, lines 33-43), or the viewer selecting a particular advertisement or a default advertisement (Column 17, lines 3-9).

Regarding Claim 53, Zigmond discloses the limitations of Claim 49. Zigmond discloses comprising a processing unit for inserting the sub data in the main data and displaying that sub-data inserted main data on a display unit (Figure 5, Figure 6).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pietraszak in view of Hanai et al (US 2005/0160455 and hereafter referred to as "Hanai").

Regarding Claim 3, Pietraszak discloses all the limitations of Claim 2. Pietraszak discloses the processor is able to determine storage amount (Pages 4-5, paragraph 0042-0043). Pietraszak also discloses storing EPG data and recordings (Page 6, paragraph 0056). Pietraszak is silent on displaying memory capacity. Hanai discloses an entertainment system which a provider transmits data to the user's receiver (Figure 1, Figure 2). Hanai discloses processing unit or record manager displaying on a display unit an unused memory capacity or available capacity (Page 4, paragraph 0051), a used memory capacity (Figure 10, Page 4, paragraph 0051) of the user memory area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Pietraszak to include processing unit or record manager displaying on a display unit an unused memory capacity or available capacity (Page 4, paragraph 0051), a used memory capacity (Figure 10, Page 4, paragraph 0051) of the user memory area as taught by Hanai in order to for the receiver to choose the optimal record media based on program data quantity (Page 1, paragraph 0008) as disclosed by Hanai.

10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zigmond in view of Hanai et al (US 2005/0160455 and hereafter referred to as "Hanai").

Regarding Claim 3, Zigmond discloses all the limitations of Claim 2. Zigmond is silent on displaying memory capacity. Hanai discloses an entertainment system which a provider transmits data to the user's receiver (Figure 1, Figure 2). Hanai discloses processing unit or record manager displaying on a display unit an unused memory capacity or available capacity (Page 4, paragraph 0051), a used memory capacity (Figure 10, Page 4, paragraph 0051) of the user memory area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Zigmond to include processing unit or record manager displaying on a display unit an unused memory capacity or available capacity (Page 4, paragraph 0051), a used memory capacity (Figure 10, Page 4, paragraph 0051) of the user memory area as taught by Hanai in order to for the receiver to choose the optimal record media based on program data quantity (Page 1, paragraph 0008) as disclosed by Hanai.

11. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pietraszak in view of Fell et al (US 6,674,994 and hereafter referred to as "Fell").

Regarding Claim 4, Pietraszak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Pietraszak discloses an electric communication line (Figure 2, Figure 3). Pietraszak is silent on the processing unit transmitting an entire memory capacity based on a predetermined schedule upon reception of a request. Fell discloses a transmitter and a receiver for delivery of a data file (Column 2, lines 3-7). Fell discloses that the controller or processing unit transmit the storage capacity in accordance with a predetermined schedule or a scheduling order upon the reception of a request or the transmitter sends

a data file upon a request via a scheduling order and based on the storage capacity of the receiving side the storage can be conducted at the receiving side (Column 6, lines 1-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Pietraszak to include processing unit transmit the storage capacity in accordance with a predetermined schedule or a scheduling order upon the reception of a request (Column 6, lines 1-15) as taught by Fell in order to have a automated transfer of files in a cost effective manner (Column 1, lines 21-24) as disclosed by Fell.

12. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zigmond in view of Fell et al (US 6,674,994 and hereafter referred to as "Fell").

Regarding Claim 4, Zigmond discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Zigmond discloses an electric communication line (Figure 4, 52, 64). Zigmond is silent on the processing unit transmitting an entire memory capacity based on a predetermined schedule upon reception of a request. Fell discloses a transmitter and a receiver for delivery of a data file (Column 2, lines 3-7). Fell discloses that the controller or processing unit transmit the storage capacity in accordance with a predetermined schedule or a scheduling order upon the reception of a request or the transmitter sends a data file upon a request via a scheduling order and based on the storage capacity of the receiving side the storage can be conducted at the receiving side (Column 6, lines 1-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Zigmond to include processing unit transmit the



storage capacity in accordance with a predetermined schedule or a scheduling order upon the reception of a request (Column 6, lines 1-15) as taught by Fell in order to have a automated transfer of files in a cost effective manner (Column 1, lines 21-24) as disclosed by Fell.

### ***Conclusion***

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farzana E. Hossain whose telephone number is 571-

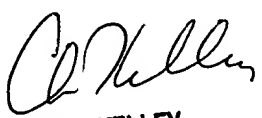
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272-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FEH  
November 13, 2006

  
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